

For immediate release  
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### **Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid AT & T Data Center Employees**

The state has activated its Rapid Response Team to help workers that will be laid off from the AT & T Data Center in Kansas City. About 173 employees in the operator services division will lose their jobs on September 13 due to lack of work.

The Rapid Response team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Division of Employment Security, the Full Employment Council and the University of Missouri Project Refocus, responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing free training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist AT & T Data Center employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The staff members at the Missouri Career Centers are very qualified in helping displaced workers get the help they need to find new jobs," Driskill said. "We encourage these AT&T workers to take advantage of these free services and the expertise offered at the Career Centers."

Services provided by the Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center include preparing resumes, career counseling, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Full Employment Council are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. A series of meetings will be held with workers to explain how these services can help them find a new job. The meetings are scheduled for: 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on July 23 and 30, 2 and 6 p.m. on July 24 and 31 and 5 and 9 p.m. on July 25 and 29.

Employers interested in hiring AT & T Data Center workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or Steve Dempsey with the Full Employment Council at 816-691-2242.